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SHEFFIELD PLATE

Sheffield plate was first produced at Sheffield, England, about 1742, on the accidental discovery that silver could be fused on copper. During the latter half of the eighteenth century many makers of Sheffield plate were operating in that city, and the manufacture was soon introduced into Birmingham, where also it became firmly established. We know no way to distinguish between the products of the two cities, since the same name is applied to all silver plated copper. Silver ware of all kinds was produced in Sheffield plate during the latter half of the eighteenth century, including the most artistic and delicate designs in openwork and relief.

The Museum has recently secured some exceptionally fine pieces of old Sheffield, including two sugar baskets of graceful shape and artistically engraved and cut decorations. A fruit basket, ornamented with elaborately perforated pattern and medallions of classical character in relief, is one of the most distinguished examples in the collection.



CHINESE TEMPLE FIGURE

Among the recent accessions is a remarkable Chinese figure, forty inches in height, of Fuchien porcelain, representing Kuan-yin, goddess of Mercy. The figure is creamy white with no touch of color save in the eyes and on the lips. The head and right hand are removable, the hand having a spike in the middle of the palm, to serve as a pricket candlestick, evidently intended for temple use. It is one of the largest figures of its kind and belonged at one time to Lady Charlotte Schreiber, the noted English collector. It is of the Ch'ienlung period.



NOTES

EXHIBITION.—A special exhibition of old American and English furniture is planned for the coming autumn.

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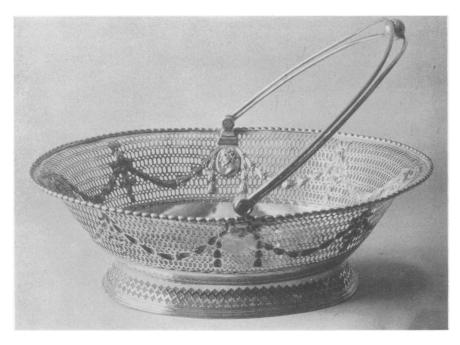
ADVERTISING.—A contract has been entered into with the Street Car Advertising Company to advertise the Museum and School during the present year by cards placed in the street cars of the city. Two different designs of cards have already been used and a third, advertising the coming exhibition of "Fakes and Reproductions," will appear April 1st.

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ATTENDANCE.—During the recent exhibition of Americanization Through Art, which was held from January 19th to February 22d (35 days), the attendance was 35,760, an average of over a thousand a day. The largest attendance for any single day was that of January 23d, when 9,489 persons visited the exhibition. On the closing day the attendance reached 4,827.



SHEFFIELD PLATE SUGAR BASKETS Eighteenth Century



SHEFFIELD PLATE FRUIT BASKET Eighteenth Century